

TELEVISION STATION WSB-TV / ATLANTA
QUARTERLY LISTING OF LOCAL PROGRAMS REFLECTING CONCERNS
AND/OR NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY
JULY 1, 2012 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

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(Mini-Series Documentaries are produced by WSB-TV's News Department and appear within the newscasts as a public service to the community. The Action News "mini-series" are aired one to four times daily Monday -Friday from 430am-7am; 12-1:00pm; 4-7pm; 11-11:35pm; 1:35-2:05am (repeat). On Saturdays, Action News is aired from 6-9am; 12-12:30pm; 6-6:30pm (through August 25); and 11-11:35pm. Sundays: 7:30-11am; 12-12:30pm; 6-7pm; and 11-11:35pm. Segments are generally 1:00-6:00 minutes in length. The following, in date order, are the reports broadcast during third quarter, 2012)

QUARTERLY ISSUES / PROGRAMS LIST

- EDUCATION / YOUTH
 - ECONOMY
 - IMMIGRATION
- TRAFFIC / TRANSPORTATION
- LAW ENFORCEMENT & CRIMINAL JUSTICE
 - POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
 - COMMUNITY/NEIGHBORHOODS
 - DIVERSITY

Parents Vote on Cell Phone Towers on School Property

Date: 07/11/12 4pm

duration 1:27

Carol Sbarge

The current plan is for nine cell phone towers to go up outside various DeKalb schools. Briarlake Elementary is one school where the school board has agreed to allow that. The cell phone company in turn agrees to pay money. A DeKalb lawmaker pushed to get the non-binding referendum that asks 'do you support placing cell phone towers on school property?' Rep. Karla Drenner believes the majority of voters will vote "no." Drenner: "I think it's a no-brainer. Why would we want to radiate our children for a little bit of extra revenue." We talked to DeKalb voters who will head to the polls on July 31st. They had mixed opinions on cell phone towers on school property. Barbara Seligman: "I want to wait and read if there's any fallout from the towers because if they're safe, then it's a good way for the schools to raise money." Charmaine McKenzie: "Until there is more research and proof to prove me wrong, I would prefer that they don't have it there." As for the DeKalb County school system, a spokesperson said they are not taking a position on this non-binding referendum. Rep Drenner says parents and the community needed to be able to give more input before the board agreed to go with the cell towers. "What I heard over and over and over again – and these are from parents that are involved in the school process – that they had never been communicated to that this process was underway.

DeKalb Schools Proposed New "Balanced Calendar"

Date: 09/17/12 17:08:36 duration :22

Jovita Moore

We're checking on plans by DeKalb County schools to get public feedback on next year's school calendar. The district is looking at several options – including adopting a "balanced calendar" for the 2013-2014 school year. That would add weeks at the beginning and end of the school year, as well as more vacations weeks during the fall and spring semesters. The final vote is set for October 8th.

Clayton School Calendar Proposal

Date: 07/31/12 17:09:35

duration :29

John Bachman

The superintendent of Clayton County schools is taking another look at a controversial new scheduling plan. Superintendent Edward Heatly wants schools to dismiss early on Wednesdays. Because he says teachers need time to complete paperwork and for professional advancement. But some parents say the change came with too little notice. Richard Jones: "We need to have more time to be able to digest what's going on and be able to implement the things we need to do." The new school year begins on August 13th. A final decision could come next week.

Emory University Admits Manipulating Data to Influence National Ranking

Date: 08/28/12 17:11:36

duration :25

John Bachman

Emory University has welcomed the class of 2016, even as it deals with controversy. Emory's incoming freshman class totals 1371. Emory recently disclosed that some administrators misrepresented data for several previous classes to boost the school's rankings. Emory admits it reported average SAT and ACT scores of all *admitted* students, rather than those who actually enrolled. Emory did not announce the academic data for the new class.

Date: 08/28/12 18:06:26

duration :23

Jovita Moore

Freshmen are beginning classes for the year at Emory University. As the school weathers controversy over bad data. Emory has announced, there are 1,371 incoming freshmen. It didn't provide test scores. Emory recently disclosed some administrators misrepresented data to boost its college rankings. They used SAT and ACT scores for *admitted* students rather than those who were actually enrolled.

Concern Over Asbestos Removal Method at DeKalb School

Date: 07/01/12 8am duration 1:20 Erica Byfield

"That is apparently the tile pieces that they were removing from the school that has asbestos." Joe Hirsch pointed out little white chunks all over the ground. He says at one point there was a dumpster overflowing with broken up tiles in the middle of the parking lot at Dunwoody High School. It's gone now, but Hirsch says he shot video and took these photos a few days ago. Hirsch: "There were no warning signs to let parents know not to let their kids near the dumpster." He says he noticed because this parking lot also doubles as his kids' bus stop. DeKalb officials don't deny contractors removed asbestos tiles from the high school, but say everything the workers did met EPA standards. Walter Woods (DeKalb Schools): "We have very special bags that the tiles were placed in and then they are placed in a lined special dumpster which is taken to a special landfill." Hirsch: "Initially they had been putting it in bags. I don't know if they got lazy or if they were running out of money or time, but then the last couple of days they just backed a truck her and just started throwing it into the dumpster without any regard." Hirsch also says something black and gooey that left this stain on the ground caught his attention. "I took a sample and it would be nice to know what's in it." He says he may pay for that himself. But again, school leaders say no one was ever in danger. Woods: "We have had a clean bill of health from the EPA this week about the process."

Parents Rally for Charter School

Date: 07/08/12 11pm duration :35 Erin Coleman

Dozens of parents are rallying to expand Drew Charter school in Atlanta. Supporters say a new high school would help 600 students. Parents and staff turned out to chant a wave banners at Drew this afternoon. They're hoping the school board will vote to allow the school to expand its charter and build a new \$55 million dollar high school. Parent Adria Kitchens: "I want them to know they're not only making an investment in Charles Drew, but an investment in the southeast Atlanta community." Superintendent Erroll Davis is against the plan, saying other schools in the area have too many empty seats. The school board is set to vote on Monday.

New Principal at Atlanta Elementary School Reaches Out to Community

Date: 07/12/12 6pm duration :36 Diana Davis

School doesn't start for weeks, but the new principal at a southeast Atlanta elementary school is already making a difference. It's Cynthia Jewell's eighth day on the job at Thomasville Heights Elementary. This afternoon, she hosted a community barbecue for parents and kids. Thomasville Heights is in a low income area that's been plagued with crime. The principal wants to get parents more involved. Jewell: "I'm trying to bridge the gap between the school and the community because I want people to know that Thomasville is a great place.' Earlier this week, Jewell knocked on doors, meeting parents at the at the apartments where most of her students live.

Voters to Decide on Georgia Charter School Amendment

Date: 09/24/12 12:58:29

duration :28

Carol Sbarge

Voters will decide on the Georgia Charter School amendment in less than two months. The language on the amendment is causing controversy. The ballot in November will read: "provides for improving student achievement and parental involvement through more public charter school options." Opponents say the ballot was cleverly written so it would pass. The Governor and others came up with the language. The Governor's office said the wording accurately reflects the purpose of charter schools.

Two High Schools Ousted from Atlanta Symphony Program

Date: 08/17/12 05:20:02

duration :35

Carol Sbarge

There's controversy over who should perform with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Two high schools are apparently out! Lassiter and Walton High School choruses performed with the ASO for four years. But the ASO withdrew invitations this year. They say it's because the ASO wanted a more diverse student choir. Vashon Ramsey: "It's not necessarily fair to the students. They should be able to perform regardless." Stanley Romanstein: "We want the stages of the Atlanta Symphony – whether here at Verizon or Chastain – to reflect the diversity of Atlanta." ASO says they're looking forward to giving other talented student choirs in Atlanta a chance to sing with the symphony.

Parents at Atlanta's Bethune Elementary Unhappy with Morning Drop-Off Rules

Date: 09/24/12 17:47:21

duration 1:30

John Bachman

This sign as some parents at Bethune Elementary outraged. It asks parents to *not* walk their children to class to prevent distractions. Rodney Daniel: Bethune School Council Chair: "Right now, all the parents I have with me today are upset and don't feel welcome." Rodney Daniel and his wife have three children at Bethune in Vine City in northwest Atlanta – one of several Atlanta public schools named in the test cheating scandal. Daniel: "We don't want to go back to old ways of APS. We want it to be parents, community, you guys are in this school this is who we need in this school." A school district spokesman told us that's what new district leaders want. Atlanta Public School spokesman Stephen Alford: We're meeting right now to address those issues. Because we have a few parents here that spend quite a bit of time to ensure our kids get what they need. And we want them to be here." The spokesman tells us that some new principals – like the one here at Bethune Elementary – are strictly interpreting the school district policy. That policy – which states parents need to give 24 hours notice to visit the classroom is common with area school districts. And it's in place to protect students, and prevent distractions. Alford: "We want our parents deeply involved in our schools. We welcome that. But we can't have parents interrupting instructional time. And most of our parents don't do that." Rodney Daniel: "We understand why the rule is in place. However, as long as parents go through the process: signing in, walking their kids to class in the morning – that should be welcome. You should welcome seeing parents in the building no matter what."

Businesses Weigh In on Impact of Healthcare Reform on Economy

Date: 07/04/12 6pm

duration :32

Justin Farmer

We talked to some business leaders about the Affordable Care Act. And from what they tell us, it could mean a boost for the local economy. There are 300 companies in Georgia that offer technology based products for the healthcare industry. Alpharetta based McKesson is among the largest. Officials there say they're already seeing a greater demand. McKesson VP Mark Bentley: "Some of the solutions we've been developing over time, are now becoming much more in demand by our healthcare systems." McKesson added 600 jobs over the past two years. Other experts say more high paying jobs could follow.

New Airline Promises Economic Boost

Date: 07/02/12 4:30am

duration :23

Carol Sbarge

A new airline flying out of Atlanta's airport is expected to provide an economic boost to the metro area. AeroMexico started offering daily, nonstop flights from Atlanta to Mexico City over the weekend. Officials estimate the new service will have an economic impact of \$6 million dollars. The carrier has flown out of Hartsfield Jackson airport in the past, but had to discontinue service because of the weak economy.

Smyrna Residents Complain About Unfinished Retail Development

Date: 07/06/12 5pm

duration 1:40

Diana Davis

"I'm tired of looking at it." So are lots of people who live and work in Smyrna. Four years after construction started on what was supposed to be a retail and office building, the developer never got past the steel framework stage. Councilman Welch: "The loan on the original building basically fell apart and the bank withdrew the loan." The city bought the property from the bank back in March with hopes another developer would step in. So far, no bites. Charles Welch: "Not to my knowledge. No." The Concord Road site is one of three brought up by the city in recent months. It shut down and demolished the Hickory Lakes Apartments on Windy Hill Road last year. Still no buyer for that 48 acre chunk of land. Smyrna bought and demolished other apartments off Ward Street next to Campbell High. Critics of the city land buys say Smyrna is speculating with taxpayer money. Welch: "The city is not in the land development business. I understand their frustrations with it. And their concerns about it." The Smyrna Development Authority loaned the city \$275 thousand to buy the Concord Road parcel. The city hopes a buyer will snap it up for more. What if there's no buyer? Welch: "Turn it back into greenspace or something better than it is now." Something better also the hope for two privately owned stalled developments along Atlanta Road. The Jonquil Village and Belmont Hills sites have sat vacant for years. More victims of the economy. Welch: "We would like to have it developed to the same level we were developing in 2006 but the economy won't sustain it." As for this property, the city says it will wait another two months or so for a buyer to come forward if no one makes an offer, down it comes.

Higher Gas Prices Hurt Economic Recovery

Date: 07/09/12 5pm

duration :27

Justin Farmer

AAA says the two main factors pushing oil prices higher are European sanctions against Iran, and a plan for the debt crisis in Europe. Still, some metro Atlantans say they do not understand why the prices are slowly creeping back up. "It hurts ... our family's wallet." Rodney Gilliam: I'm not all that educated on why gas prices are as high as they are, but it just don't feel right." Some economists believe the economy could get a boost later this year from lower gas prices.

Experts Predict Economic Slow-Down in Coming Months

Date: 09/11/12 6am

duration :23

Fred Blankenship

Financial experts say the state's economic growth will slow down in the coming months. Researchers with the economic forecasting center at Georgia State University say Georgia's economy will stall into 2013. Experts say the rising price of oil and plunging corporate confidence could contribute to the standstill. Another setback for Georgia's economy is a slowdown in exports like airplane parts and paper to Europe.

TV and Film Industry Give Coweta Town a Major Economic Boost

Date: 07/18/12 10pm

duration 1:40

Diana Davis

The fictional town of Woodbury infested with zombies is actually Senoia in Coweta County. The main street is one of the centers for shooting season three of AMC's "The Walking Dead." The town has been made over from the movie sets of a bank to bookstore to flower shop. Shooting, which started in May, has flooded the town with paying tourists and zombie wannabes. Police Chief Jason Edens: "We've received calls here at the police department from Boston to New York to Philadelphia." Tourist: "We're looking for zombies." It's kept police busy rerouting traffic around shooting and keeping movie gawkers safe. Edens: "We've had a couple close calls with vehicles almost striking pedestrians." Restaurants are jammed. Business in Senoia has never been better. Restaurant Manager Kassy Johnson: "There was a really bad time where we were not doing so well but it's definitely helped a lot." On filming day, shopkeepers actually have to shutter the store and have customers come in from the back but you won't hear them complaining. Business at this antique and gift shop has doubled. There's zombie merchandise everywhere you look. Shopkeeper: "And the good thing about it is helping now and it will be helping three years down the road when people still see the show and go 'I want to go there.'" Senoia's Main Street has its own version of the Hollywood Walk of Fame, with plaques for the dozens of TV shows and movies shot her in the last few years. Some of the buildings on Main Street were specially built to double as movie sets. It's friendly for production and tourists in the last few years the shops of Main Street have defied the tough economy. Shooting here should wrap up for the season in November but the financial benefits should last years.

Developer Takes Over Stalled Buckhead Project

Date: 08/07/12 4pm

duration 1:48

Jeff Dore

When the economy tanked, they just shut it down. Piles of rebar have been rusting and cranes just stood there with nothing to do. Then a new developer took over. The first job – clearing out materials abandoned when the streets of Buckhead Project stopped. We asked the development director for Oliver McMillan Company why they would invest hundreds of millions when so many businesses are commitment-shy. Hunter Richardson: “What we’re finding is the luxury tenants and the best-in-class tenants are still doing deals. And so as a result the clientele we’re after is responding positively to this project. We’re encouraged by the leasing activity that we’ve gotten.” Luxury store Hermes has been in since the beginning and will get a prime corner spot. We looked at the artist renderings: high-rise apartment towers will be strictly for luxury rentals. Richardson: “And it’s the detail and the space and we’re going after that urban professional, that permanent renter, that person who really wants to be a renter as opposed to an owner and who also wants lifestyle.” This is actually where the young adult singles scene was the biggest in the southeast. They are not bringing that back. Richardson: “A balance of retail and restaurants as opposed to a restaurant/bar/night club dominated district.” A lot of people have wondered about all that reinforcing iron that’s been rusting in the rain since the project shut down. Builders say they’ll toss the stuff on the ground into the recycling bin, but the material already built in will be sanded, tested, and then they expect in good shape to be part of the building to come.

WSB-TV Local News of Public Interest:

Immigration

Georgia’s Immigration Law Facing Legal Challenge

Date: 07/09/12 05:15:15

duration :22

Eric Phillips

Lawsuits challenging both Georgia and Alabama's immigration laws are back in federal appeals court. Both sides are asking judges to reconsider the crackdowns, in light of a recent Supreme Court ruling. That ruling upheld Arizona's law, which allows police to ask for citizenship documents when stopping or arresting a person. Opponents say lawmakers are overstepping their authority.

Cancer Patient Arrested For Immigration Violation

Date: 07/19/12 5pm

duration :37

Monica Pearson

A cancer patient was arrested for driving without a license. Today, she reported to immigration officials. Carolina Vega is an undocumented resident. She has stage two breast cancer and says she needs the treatments found here. Vega faces deportation to Mexico after Cobb County police arrested her after a crash for driving without a license. With her attorney translating, she talked about her concerns. "I am worried and I'm preoccupied about having to go back, my whole family is here but I'm hopeful and more than anything I'm hoping we can work something out." Vega is out on bond. She must report to immigration officials weekly until her case is decided.

Dream Act Brings Chance of Legitimacy for Children of Illegal Immigrants

Date: 08/14/12 5pm

duration 1:34

Diana Davis

This Sandy Springs Immigration law office has hundreds of clients who've been waiting for the new program. Monica Juarez and her sister Ana's parents brought them here illegally as toddlers from Mexico. They told me they've lived in fear of being deported ever since they graduated from high school. Juarez: "I'm really happy to go through this. I'm really happy that everything's going to work out and be on the brighter side for us." The program gives work permits and stops deportation for two years to illegal immigrants who meet certain qualifications. They must have come to the US before they were 16 and have lived here continuously for at least five years. They must now be under the age of 31, and must be in school or have graduated from high school or honorably discharged from the military. Lawyer Charles Kuck: "This program is nothing more than a work permission and a promise not to deport them for two years. It is not a status. It's not a status from which they can get permanent residence; it's not a pathway to citizenship. It's nothing other than promising we won't deport you." Alejandra Hernandez was brought here at age 13. Now 21, she says she's had many of her friends deported after minor traffic violations. Although she's happy she qualifies, she told me the two year program does not go far enough. She wants a way to achieve permanent immigration status or citizenship. Hernandez: "Hopefully this is going to be better, but I think we can get something more than this." Still, she says it will allow her to live in the open and come out of the shadows always looking over her shoulder. Hernandez: "And I could be here without being worried about being deported, detained, or driving without a license and stuff."

State Agencies Charged with Failure to Comply with Immigration Law

Date: 08/20/12 5pm

duration 1:24

John Bachman

Georgia unemployment is 9.3%, worse than the national average. Lance Corporal Cadhmar Clarke: "It's very important. Because we all need jobs." Clarke has been out of the service for three weeks and is looking for a job. We told him about a complaint filed with the state immigration enforcement and review board claiming 1,200 local government agencies did not file paperwork on their use of e-verify as required by a new state law. So the state doesn't know if they're hiring illegal immigrants. Clarke: "Basically, I think citizens should be put before anybody else." Unemployed James Melzer: "It's a good chance that some illegal immigrants could've knocked me off a few times from getting a job. I can't prove it, but I think it's happened in last few months." D.A. King: "We have elected and appointed officials who are ignoring the law designed to stop that. This is crazy." King is a pro-enforcement immigration activist. He filed the complaint. "I hope legislators understand that local governments and official agencies are treating laws passed under gold dome as optional." King says there's no penalty for the agencies, unless they have a hearing before the review board and don't comply within 30 days of that. Unemployed Michelle Gilbreath: "It needs to be taken care of. Something that affects everybody, and the economy's not good and we need all the help we can get."

Dalton Woman Unable to Leave Mexico Due to Immigration Laws Appeals to President Obama

Date: 09/14/12 6pm

duration 1:33

Diana Davis

All of Angelica Carranzas memories lie in Dalton, Georgia – school, family, falling in love. She considers herself an All American Georgia girl, but was brought here illegally by her parents as a child. I don't remember crossing the border when I was five. Now 24, she is locked in an immigration battle stuck in Mexico, thousands of miles away from her family in Dalton. Carranzas: "I pray that I will be able to come home soon." Carranza made this YouTube video as a direct appeal to President Obama and the Department of Homeland Security to reconsider her immigration status and allow her to return to the U.S. I was with her family as they watched in tears. Mother: "I need my daughter with me. I miss my daughter every day, all day." She and her new husband, a US citizen, went to the US Consulate in Mexico in May to get a visa, Carranza was not only turned down but told she must stay in Mexico ten years. "In hearing my story I hope you will take my case and many others in my situation in consideration that where we are from is not as important as where we were raised." The immigration fight has devastated not only her family but her in-laws. Though her husband could come back to the US, he won't leave her side in Mexico. Mother-in-law Martha Gonzales: "I miss Angie a lot. They were living with me at my house and now my house is empty." Her younger sister, born in the US and living in Dalton, says Angie is getting desperate. Lupita Carranza: "I would just say to her – don't lose your hopes. You'll be home soon. Every day I think about her. She was just like my best friend."

Many Immigrants Seek Information on Program to Avoid Deportation

Date: 08/18/12 6pm

duration 1:15

Carl Willis

Roughly 1,000 people filled the lobby of the Latin American Association for a public forum to learn about a program that could keep them from being deported. Nayali Cordova, a 26-year-old whose family brought her here from Mexico when she was 11, says she's ready to start the application process. Cordova: "I felt like I was living in a place I called home, but I felt like an outsider for some reason. So, it actually makes me feel more comfortable that I might have a way to feel more at home here." The deferred action program was announced by the Obama administration in June and went into effect just three days ago on August 15th. Jeffrey Tapia, Exec Director – Latin American Association: "They understand that it is not amnesty, it is not a permanent immigration status, but that it's a step in the right direction." The program gives work permits and stops deportations for two years for illegal immigrants who meet certain qualifications. They must have come to the US before they were 16 and have lived here continuously for at least five years. They have to be under the age of 31 and must be in school, have graduated from high school, or been honorably discharged from the military. Kijua Sanders-McMurtry: "I teach a class on civil rights history, so this is just reminiscent of all those things we already learned about how students have mobilized." Cordova: "I feel really excited. I have kids, so I'm really happy that I might have a better future for them."

WSB-TV Local News of Public Interest: **Traffic / Transportation**

Atlanta Traffic Control Center Understaffed, Out-of-Date

Date: 07/02/12 5pm

duration 3:13

Richard Belcher

A whistleblower first raised the issue with us, suggesting that Atlanta's traffic control center may look good, but is often under-staffed and relies on outdated technology. After doing some digging, we found that even the city's public works commissioner gives his own operation a grade barely above failing. Welcome to the world of high-tech traffic management. Here, in Cobb County's 25,000 square foot, 3-story transportation management center. Here, in Clayton County's center, which is getting a \$4 million dollar upgrade including 40 new cameras to monitor key intersections; and here in Gwinnett County's

center, which has 130 cameras trained on critical intersections. Tom Seaver recalls what happened the Friday before Memorial Day. "We were looking at a significant back-up on State Route 20 around the Mall of Georgia area. We made some adjustments and the back-up was dissipated in about 20 minutes." Here's what we found when we checked out Atlanta's traffic control center during afternoon rush that same Friday. Closed because of broken switches. "Once we do receive those switches, they were on back order, the TCC will be brought back up operational." RB: "So it's just not working?" Mendoza: "I would have to check on that, but that's correct." Even when Atlanta's traffic control center is working, it has limited capabilities. Closed circuit cameras to monitor intersections? Atlanta has none. Atlanta has 946 traffic signals, but it can monitor just 15% of them from the TCC, and it cannot re-set the signals from the center. What happens if one of the other 85% of Atlanta's signals malfunctions? Mendoza: "If the other 85 go out, then we rely on citizens or APD reports to call in." RB: Compare that to Clayton County's system which has 110 camera's and full remote connectivity with 90% of its 265 traffic signals. "Literally we can log onto the computer in the field, out at the traffic signal, and we can reprogram it. Cobb County has 540 traffic signals, every one of them remotely controlled from its transportation management center. Without that, says David Montayne, "it could take weeks or longer to know that you have a problem and then go out and resolve it." Atlanta's center is often empty, but Cobb County staffs its center Monday to Friday from 6:00am to 6:00pm. Gwinnett from 6:30 to 8:30 in the morning and 4:00-6:00 in the evening rush hour. Clayton staffs its center 7:30am – 4:30pm. Clayton: "If we weren't her, it wouldn't be seen. It would go back it was 15-20 years ago, and the citizens wouldn't see the benefit." Atlanta Public Works commissioner Richard Mendoza was remarkably candid. RB: "What letter grade would you give your system?" Mendoza: "In this present condition I would give my system a D-minus." And the commissioner is not especially optimistic about improvements any time soon. He estimates it will take about \$40 million dollars to get Atlanta's system fully up to speed. However, he is hopeful the city will commit some new money to traffic management – if the regional transportation sales tax passes later this month.

Area Leaders, Georgians Weigh in On Upcoming TSPLOST Vote

Date: 07/02/12 18:09:07 duration :33 Linda Stouffer

With just 29 days to go, supporters are out, trying to drum up support for the Transportation Sales Tax Referendum. They've enlisted some local sports executives to make a pitch for the 1% tax. It's meant to raise more than \$8 billion dollars for regional transportation projects. Mike Plant (Atlanta Braves): "The #1 reason – year in and year out – that people tell us they don't come to more games is because of the traffic." The vote is on July 31st. To review the proposed projects, go to wsbtv.com.

Date: 07/13/12 5pm duration 1:15 Lori Geary

An exclusive Channel 2 Action News poll shows folks are discussing the 1% transportation sales tax and saying no. Of the more than 1000 likely primary voters polled, 56% are opposed to the sales tax. Only 33% said they would support it. Supporters, though, say they're looking at the big picture on the tax – that it would help improve gridlock. Voter Kristen Thomas: "Any tax increase to benefit our transportation here in Atlanta I think ultimately is going to be for the better." The more than \$8 billion raised in metro Atlanta over ten years would go towards 157 projects on the list – both road and transit. Voter RK Jackson: "I'm for anything that will improve the quality of life in Atlanta." But the poll also shows supporters of the TSPLOST are not getting much help from African American voters. Less than 50% of black voters polled support the referendum, but compare that to white voters – 67% oppose it. John Mica: "It's important for Georgia and also the greater Atlanta area to step up to the plate." We caught up with the Chairman of the US House Transportation Committee as this TSPLOST forum in Cobb County. Congressman John Mica says metro Atlanta could lose out on federal funding if voters say no to the TSPLOST. Mica: "The money

goes someplace else. That's the way it works. When the citizens and local officials and community get their act together, then you move forward. Otherwise you're left behind."

Date: 07/16/12 12pm duration :33 Fred Blankenship

A metro Atlanta college president is coming out in *support* of the 1% transportation sales tax. One of the projects proposed under the referendum is a new Marta line from Buckhead to Emory University in DeKalb County. That area also includes the Centers for Disease Control, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, and the Veterans Hospital. Emory University's president says the proposed rail line could impact quality of life. Jim Wagner: "When we have new businesses that wish to come here businesses that are making decisions about whether to stay here they're making it on the ability to enjoy life"

Date: 07/16/12 11pm duration :24 Justin Farmer

The latest now on the transportation referendum. Atlanta's mayor will join the Atlanta Business League to formally announce their support for the measure. A poll completed by the Hill Research Consultant Group show support for the referendum growing. Tonight, 38% support while 41% oppose the 1¢ tax. On Friday, a Channel 2 Action News poll showed 33% supported the measure with 41% opposing. On Friday, a poll showed 33% supported with 56% opposing.

Georgia to Get \$2 Billion in Federal Transportation Dollars

Date: 07/06/12 05:34:59 duration :27 Fred Blankenship

We found out, Georgia will get more than \$2 billion dollars from the federal government to maintain and repair the roads you drive on every day. Later today, President Obama is expected to sign the transportation bill into law. A leading transportation association told our Washington Bureau that Georgia is set to receive about \$2.5 billion dollars over the next two years. For the first time, the transportation bill does not direct *how* states must spend the money.

Investigation Uncovers Taxpayer Waste on State-Funded Airline

Date: 07/16/12 18:35:47 duration 1:45 Tom Regan

Regan: "How many people are on the flight?" Attendant: "Just you two." Tom: "Just me and him?" Back in 2010 we took a bus from the terminal at Hartsfield Jackson airport to this 9-seat Cessna turbo prop operated by "Georgia Skies." We got ready to take off for our 35-minute flight to Macon. Best of all, we had the entire passenger cabin to ourselves! For just \$39 dollars a seat. But our investigation found the hidden cost to our comfortable flight. Our \$39 dollar seat actually cost taxpayers \$464 dollars. Georgia Skies was operating under a \$1.3 million dollar federal program designed to subsidize air travel in rural communities. Just months after our investigation, the government pulled that subsidy – because the cost was too high. For more than a year, Georgia Skies has tried to continue the flights without the federal money. But with one-way tickets jumping from \$39 to \$185 dollars, even fewer people were flying, so Georgia Skies is getting out, and two new companies want in. Sun Air and Twin Air Calypso sent proposals to the US Department of Transportation. Both claim they can do better than Georgia Skies. And both want the government subsidy back to prove that.

WSB-TV Local News of Public Interest:

Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice

Friends of Shooting Victim Allege Excessive Force by Police

Date: 09/04/12 6:00pm

duration :35

Tom Jones

The friend of a man shot by police thinks officers could have used more discretion. Clayton County police shot the 22-year-old man after they were called to his home on Yellowwood Court. They say he was threatening to kill himself with a knife. Officers say they shot him after he made verbal threats and moved

towards them. The man's friend says with all the officers on the scene, shooting him was not necessary." Brian Stringer: "I think they should have used more discretion and probably a little more communication instead of just using excessive force." The three officers involved in the shooting are on routine paid administrative leave.

Controversial Sheriff's Race in Clayton County

Date: 07/31/12 5am

duration :37

Carol Sbarge

A former high-ranking Clayton County official says today's primary election could be key in setting the county's future course. Former county Chief of Staff and Fire Chief Alex Cohilas says the sheriff's race and a couple of other key contests, could determine whether the county can shed itself of poor images. The county has dealt with conflict, controversy and allegations of corruption. Cohilas says putting that all aside and moving forward could be key to attract businesses and spur economic growth. Cohilas: "This election impacts the county's ability in my opinion to recover economically." There are eight people running for Clayton County Sheriff.

Date: 08/02/12 5am

duration :38

Carol Sbarge

We're hearing from both sides in the race for Clayton County Sheriff that's now going to a runoff election. Current Sheriff Kem Kimbrough and former Sheriff Victor Hill got the most votes Tuesday. With eight candidates running, neither got the 50% that was needed. Hill was indicted earlier this year on racketeering and theft charges. He wouldn't go on camera, but his lawyer spoke for him. Steve Frey: "We believe the public sees this sham indictment for what it is." Kimbrough: "I was a little disheartened we didn't get the 50% but clearly the majority of Clayton County voters believe we are doing the right thing." Hill and Kimbrough face off in the runoff election on August 21.

Date: 09/27/12 5pm

duration 1:48

Mark Winne

Victor Hill's attorney Steve Frey says if trial starts in November, it should be done before a new Clayton County sheriff takes office, which is important because his client wants to be that person. The lawyer for Clayton County sheriff's candidate Victor Hill says the judge's decisions on motions filed recently could decide whether a trial already set in motion for November 26th actually happens then. But Frey says the most important thing for him is that he's ready to go to trial on November 26th, and have the case tried before whoever wins the Clayton County sheriff's race is scheduled to take office. Chief Deputy Garland Watkins says he's running as a write-in candidate against Hill. "It doesn't matter when the trial begins. I'm just trying to move forward with my campaign." Special Prosecutor Layla Zon says she'll be ready too, and expects trial to indeed start in November. Watkins: "What I care about is justice being brought forth, what I care about is what's in the best interest for the citizens of Clayton county." Frey suggests a bone of contention in legal papers filed by him and for the prosecution this week, involves another case involving another former sheriff, DeKalb County's Sidney Dorsey, who was convicted of racketeering and the murder of his would-be successor Derwin Brown. Frey says Hill is not guilty of racketeering, theft, and more, and that the Dorsey case should have no major bearing on the Hill case. Ms. Zon says the Dorsey case is relevant to Hill's case because both involve alleged theft of county resources. Special Prosecutor Zon says a few days ago she filed a copy of a Dorsey indictment and the verdict form, so Judge Albert Collier has what he needs to decide for himself if its relevant in Hill's case.

Alpharetta, Johns Creek to Form Cooperative Hazardous Material Unit

Date: 09/07/12 17:08:59

duration 1:06

Mike Petchenik

"Our citizens and their citizens deserve this. They need that quick response." That's why Alpharetta Public Safety Director Gary George told me he's ready and willing to allow John's Creek access to this state-of-the-art hazardous materials response equipment. "In our grant we agreed that any other agency in need

would have access to this.” Alpharetta already has agreements to let Roswell and Milton use the equipment. In July, we first told Johns Creek accused Alpharetta of withholding a similar agreement – unless Johns Creek allowed Alpharetta officers to patrol one of its parks. In a memo we obtained from Johns Creek city manager John Kachmar to the city council, Kachmar wrote, “Linking that or extorting an arrangement for political purposes could have serious consequences.” George emphatically denies his department ever held the equipment hostage until it got what it wanted. “Personally I like cross-swearing officers. That way we can respond, they can respond.” He believes moving past the controversy will benefit everyone. “I don’t believe the citizens care if it’s got Alpharetta, Johns Creek, or Roswell on a police car. It’s the fact the emergency response is there quickly.”

WSB-TV Local News of Public Interest:

Politics / Government

Complaints Voiced Over Ten Commandments in Public Building

Date: 09/10/12 23:18:51

duration :29

Jovita Moore

A display of the Ten Commandments at the Georgia State Capitol is setting off controversy. We showed you the display that went up last week. The Ten Commandments are next to the Declaration of Independence, the Magna Carta and the Bill of Rights. Some call the display divisive. Jeffrey Selman: “The American government is based on democracy and there’s nothing stated in the Ten Commandments giving guidance on how to run a democracy.” The state legislature passed a law last year allowing the commandments to be displayed in public buildings.

Fulton County Elections Director in Legal Hot Water

Date: 09/19/12 18:15:48

duration 1:18

Tom Jones

You're looking at Fulton County Elections Director Sam Westmoreland after he was booked into the Fulton County jail. County officials say Westmoreland was arrested after his probation was revoked on a prior DUI charge. Westmoreland was at the center of controversy during the July primary election when it took forever to certify the election, hundreds of voters somehow ended up in the wrong district and couldn't vote for their candidate – and there was a discrepancy in the final recount vote in the sheriff's race. It all had voters venting to the commissioners and calling for Westmoreland's termination. Voter: "Westmoreland needs to go." The commissioners, who don't oversee the elections division, also weren't happy. Bill Edwards: "You did not protect us. Saying 'I'm sorry' does not make me feel any better." Westmoreland apologized and promised to fix the problems before the November Presidential election. But, less than two months before the election, he's in jail. The Board of Registration and Elections sent a statement saying it will hold a special meeting as soon as possible to determine the next course of action to ensure stability and continuity of leadership in the Department of Registration and Elections.

Woman Asked to Leave DeKalb Courtroom for Dress Code Violation

Date: 07/02/12 10pm

duration :26

Linda Stouffer

Last fall a woman was asked to leave a DeKalb County courtroom because she was wearing a mini-skirt. Olivia Walker showed us what she was wearing when she showed up to stand trial for a speeding ticket in October. The court has posted a policy against mini-skirts. But Walker says her dress came to just about the knee. Walker says she was able to close her case a month later.

Wording of Transportation Bill on Ballot Questioned

Date: 07/03/12 6pm

duration :21

Justin Farmer

Critics claim the wording on the transportation tax ballot crosses the line. The sentence sparking so much controversy says the tax "provides for local transportation projects to create jobs and reduce traffic congestion with citizen oversight." Lori Geary spent the day digging into the issue and talking to both sides.

Roswell Bond Controversy

Date: 08/14/12 17:59:12

duration 1:22

Mike Petchenik

"I think it's an investment in Roswell's future." That's why Roswell mayor Jere Wood is asking his city's voters to approve a referendum this November to spend nearly \$15 million dollars on several major projects, including nearly \$6 million dollars for road improvements at Holcomb Bridge Road and Georgia 400. "This is local government's response to say if the state government can't handle it, we're gonna handle our own problem." If approved, the city would spend \$1.5 million dollars to replace this deteriorating firehouse on the east side of Roswell. And more than \$4 million for a therapeutic pool at this senior center, and for astroturf at several area parks. "I think by doing these programs now we'll improve property values, improve quality of life, and improve tax revenues." Community activist Mike Nyden: "I'm going to withhold my vote in favor until I know that our community can actually afford this." Nyden says he understands the need, especially for the transportation projects, but questions *why* the city needs to move forward now. "What I hope for is that voters will reject this and wait 12 months, wait until the economy, our tax base, and our revenue stabilizes."

Douglas County Commissioner Charged with Forgery

Date: 07/09/12 6pm

duration :43

Jovita Moore

A former Douglas County commissioner is out of jail this evening after deputies charged him with forgery. We had the only crew there as Freddie Ashmon bonded out of jail. Deputies say Ashmon tricked county employees into altering his pay stubs, in an effort to get his child support payments lowered. The change made it look as if he made less money than he really did. Ashmon accuses the sheriff's office of playing politics since he's running for office again. Ashmon; "It's election time. I'm the only one that voted against the jail with some of the other stuff, kind of controversy. But I'm sure we'll get clear of these charges. So you think it's all politics? It's all politics." This is not Ashmon's first run-in with police. Deputies have charged him twice before with battery.

State Reps in Contentious Race

Date: 07/16/12 5pm

duration 1:40

Lori Geary

"It is the heart and soul of this city. That's why this race is so very important." As co-pastor of Salem Bible Church, Dr. Joe Williams is plugged into Atlanta's political scene. His church hosted a 'get out the vote' forum with notable civil rights leaders. That's where we caught up with state representative Pat Gardner who is in the political fight of her career. Gardner: "It hasn't been fun at all." Rashad Taylor: "It's unfortunate I've got to run against a friend." But politics can be ugly and the race for the 57th district that spans from Morningside to Centennial Olympic Park to the West End and Cascade Heights is one of the nastiest after Republican lawmakers redrew the lines. Gardner: "It made me mad. They were pitting white women against African American colleagues." The two candidates are as diverse as their district. Gardner is 72, a lifelong Democrat who has held office for more than a decade and is pushing the transportation sales tax. Gardner: "I believe it's time for us to make an investment." Taylor: "I've been a little disappointed in the project list." Taylor says he's publicly neutral on that issue. He's openly gay and has served in the legislature for four years. We found him at his campaign office in the West End, where he accused Gardner of sometimes siding with the GOP. Taylor: "When you vote to incorporate Sandy Springs and every other municipality in North Fulton, that's one step closer to the idea of a Milton County." Gardner: "I think it's a terrible idea. I would never support it." Pastor Williams hopes voters can rise about the mudslinging and vote for the best individual. Williams: "We can't make this race about sexual orientation. We can't make it about race." Gardner: "You want to make your selection on character."

Alpharetta Alcohol Sales

Date: 07/16/12 17:30:25

duration :33

Justin Farmer

Controversy today regarding alcohol sales near churches and schools. Alpharetta city councilman Donald Mitchell told us the city is having a hard time recruiting bars and restaurants downtown. They blame a state law that prohibits alcohol sales within 300 feet of a church or school. But, the city could shrink that to 50 feet. Church Pastor Jonathan Wilson: "If this were a PUBLIC elementary school, and we're talking of a buffer of 50 feet from a public school, there'd definitely be an outcry from community and parents over this." City leaders rejected a moratorium building schools near the downtown area.

Roswell Voters to Decide on City Spending

Date: 08/14/12 22:40:04

duration :32

Linda Stouffer

This November Roswell voters will decide if millions of dollars should be spent on major projects. The city wants to use \$6 million dollars in bonds on improving Holcomb Bridge Road at Georgia 400; \$4 million to add a therapeutic pool to a senior center and add astroturf to parks. Once community activist worries that could be a big burden. Mike Nyden: "What I hope for is that voters will reject this and wait 12 months, wait until the economy stabilizes, our tax base stabilizes, our revenue stabilizes." The City Council voted Monday to put the bond referendum on the November ballot.

Navy Veteran Upset Over County Building Banning His Service Dog

Date: 08/09/12 23:17:43

duration :38

Linda Stouffer

A Navy veteran says a police officer crossed the line when he confronted him about having his service dog in the DeKalb County Administrative building. Sherman Howard said officer Mike Williams told him he couldn't bring his service animal inside. He said Williams threatened to use force to make him leave. Howard: "Three times he pulled his jacket open and showed me his stun gun and says you don't want me to hit you with this, you do whatever you need to do I'm within the law." Mike Williams: "He kinda lost it. It wasn't really about the dog, not with me." Williams said he couldn't comment any more about the incident. Howard said officers should be trained about the Americans with Disabilities Act.

WSB-TV Local News of Public Interest:

Community / Neighborhoods

Homeless Advocate Questions Judges Ruling

Date: 08/31/12 17:31:36

duration 1:21

Rachel Stockman

The shelter on Peachtree and Pine in midtown often hosts as many as 600 of the city's homeless, and it's embroiled in a lengthy and complicated legal controversy. According to Anita Beaty, who is the executive director of the Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless, which runs the facility, the problem comes down to this: "The downtown wants these people off Peachtree Street." In February, a judge ruled that the shelter close its door by Friday, saying that among other reasons – the facility was not being used appropriately, and not helping folks find permanent jobs. For example, the judge said they were using the shelter to host "Occupy Atlanta" meetings. "This is an effort to close us down – to get the folks out of Dodge, redevelop this facility as a condo or something the city would want." That's why her organization appealed the ruling. We spoke with one business owner who owns a store right next door. Michael Jenkins, Graphics in Atlanta: "I know that people need that kind of service, my issue is that people are just hanging, not having anywhere to go after dark, when customers come they become concerned because they just see people loitering and hanging out." The Executive Director of this homeless shelter says these doors will remain open while they complete their very complicated legal appeal process.

Cobb Business Owner Battles City Over Paint Color

Date: 09/07/12 12:45:44

duration :35

Fred Blankenship

A Smyrna car wash owner feels targeted because of the color his business is painted. City officials say the multi-color car wash on South Cobb Drive is an eyesore. The city says the owner should have known that color did not conform with city regulations. The owner, Bentley Brandon, says he's not the only business known for how it looks. Brandon: "Broadcasting my colors is what McDonalds does and what Shell does. It's what every business does it tells my customers hey you're welcome here and this is our brand." If Brandon does not repaint his business he may have to pay a \$1000 dollar fine or spend six months in the city jail.

Naked Art Project Upsets Some Area Residents

Date: 09/14/12 17:31:22

duration 1:12

Tom Jones

Passerby Wanda Cooper: "It would have never happened in Buckhead." Cooper is expressing the sentiments of many who pass by and have to look at this painting of a naked woman undressing at the corner of McDonough and Sawtell. Some residents feel dumped on and someone wrote on the painting, "Take this [expletive] to Buckhead." People who live in the area say the message is appropriate. "This would not be in Buckhead. You can't come to our neighborhood because we don't have the same amount of money as the people in Buckhead." The mural was painted here as a part of the Living Wall street art exhibit. It has caused controversy since it went up. So much that someone has painted over the private parts of the art. But not everyone thinks the art is offensive. Resident Kim Perry: "And this is a positive message and finally something exciting happened in my neighborhood." Resident Deanna Dawn: "I am furious that this beautiful piece of art has been desecrated." Deanna Dawn also has no problem with the art, but is very offended by the message and profanity someone wrote in huge letters over the painting. Dawn: "But now my daughter has to see a curse word badly misspelled horrible statement desecrating the art and I'm furious about it."

Date: 08/22/12 04:58:57

duration :34

Carol Sbarge

Some southeast Atlanta neighbors want a controversial mural covered up. A street artist painted several women – some are nude. The group 'Living Walls' is behind the mural at the intersection of McDonough Boulevard and Sawtell Avenue. Nathan Bolster: "You're going to have controversy with art. You know I can't determine what someone else decides is art." Tajiddin Muwwakkil: "There's something crossing the line when it comes to obscenity and our children." The city said it did not approve this painting, because the artist presented another image. The mural is on private property, but the city is looking into what it can do about it.

Southwest Atlanta Neighbors Protest Planned Discount Store

Date: 08/24/12 12pm

duration :34

Fred Blankenship

Some southwest Atlanta neighbors are letting their feelings show about the new store in town. They staged a protest outside the planned Family Dollar store on Fairburn Road and Benjamin E. Mays Drive. Opponents say their area is saturated with discount retailers. Councilman C.T. Martin: "These are our homes and we're gonna protect them. We're not gonna let anybody devalue our property to make a profit." Family Dollar also sent us an email, saying, "We look forward to working with this community to create a store we can all be proud of." Family Dollar has 16 locations in Atlanta and is planning to add more.

Brookhaven Cityhood Vote Reaction

Date: 08/01/12 6am

duration 1:13

Darryn Moore

With the majority of votes counted, those for and against Brookhaven's cityhood will have to find a way to live in harmony. Residents celebrated overnight after learning 55% of the votes supported making the community of Brookhaven a city. J Max: "We believe that if people in the community had the facts that they would make the right decision." Opponents who fought against the DeKalb County neighborhood becoming its own city have doubts about its future. Jim Eyre: "People just aren't ready for higher taxes, another layer of government." There is also concern about the future of DeKalb County. With Brookhaven branching off on its own, the county could lose as much as \$25 million dollars in tax revenue. Supporters pulled off the grassroots campaign despite opposition from neighbors. Soren Ludwig: "We fought a fair and honest fight. Now our goal is to make sure the yes promises are kept with the new city." Max: "We are going to welcome anybody who wants to build our city. This morning residents who voted to make Brookhaven a city will start working to form a new government."

Businessman in Battle with Residents Over Tree Removal

Date: 07/11/12 4pm

duration 1:51

Erin Coleman

The community has been fighting since last year to save a lot of these old trees on this site from getting the ax. But the man who owns this property says he's the one who's really losing out. He came to this country with nothing, saved up to buy this property, and now stands to lose it all. "Right now, I'm broken. My family is under stress." Hapreet Sodhi says he put everything he had into this .38 acres along Moreland Avenue. The plan is to build a Papa John's Pizza. Sodhi: "I follow all the code for the city of Atlanta. All the law, all the process." But his plan also calls for cutting down a lot of these trees here, prompting neighbors to fight. We first talked to them back in November as they started a crusade to save the trees. Neighbor: "They destroy virtually every single tree on the property." The Atlanta Tree Commission voted in their favor to stop the development. Just last month, a Superior Court judge overturned that ruling, and now the city is appealing that decision. "It's about the bigger concern that we have and that is where development and environment and quality of life intersect." But Sodhi and his attorney say the fight doesn't make sense. The trees are not totally healthy, and he's just a simple man after the American dream. Sodhi: "I came to this country and saved penny by penny legally. Everything legally. I put my life saving in this project to have something for me." The Appeals Court has 45 days to respond to the appeal. They could deny it outright or decide to hear it later on. Either way, it'll be at least until the end of August before this fight is resolved.

Neighbors Unite to Fight Sewage Tank

Date: 07/24/12 22:50:00

duration :25

Justin Farmer

People living in several Atlanta neighborhoods are banding together – trying to stop construction of a controversial sewage tank. The city of Atlanta wants to build a 10 million gallon, five story sewage overflow tank off Cheshire Bridge Road. The department of Watershed Management is under federal mandate to improve its infrastructure. Neighbors and nearby business owners say they are concerned about odors and a hit to property values.

WSB-TV Local News of Public Interest:

Diversity

Firefighter Reverse Discrimination Lawsuit

Date: 07/23/12 11pm

duration :27

Jovita Moore

A federal jury rejected a lawsuit from three Atlanta firefighters, who claimed they were denied promotions because they are white. City officials told us they're happy with the verdict, saying "the verdict confirms that promotions in the city of Atlanta were – and are – based on merit, not race." The firefighters say they were denied promotions in 2005. They claimed the city had a policy of promoting less qualified African Americans for "racial balancing."

Islamic Center Discrimination Lawsuit

Date: 08/28/12 12pm

duration :38

Fred Blankenship

Attorney's for an Alpharetta mosque have until *next* Thursday to file a response in a discrimination lawsuit. The Islamic Center of North Fulton is suing the city for the right to tear down its current building and build a bigger one along busy Rucker Road. A Federal judge recently sided with the city's decision to deny the change, but the Islamic Center appealed. Doug Dillard: "Under their theory, no church could ever expand...cause you buy property with the idea of growing congregation, everybody does it...every church does it." Attorneys for the city fired back late last week, saying the Islamic Center is not immune from zoning laws just because it is a religious institution.

NAACP Urge Investigation of DOT

Date: 07/31/12 5am duration :40 Carol Sbarge

Local members of the NAACP are pushing for the US Dept. of Justice to investigate the Georgia Department of Transportation for discrimination. NAACP members met at the state capitol Monday to back the allegations. They said an independent study by GDOT shows from 2009 to 2011, the Department only hired 2.4% of the construction and engineering companies owned by African Americans. Sheila Brown, NAACP Community Coordinator: "These facts and figures strongly suggest that GDOT has an ongoing and systematic and deliberate practice of under-utilizing minority businesses." GDOT officials said the Department has not received any communication from the NAACP about the disadvantaged business enterprise program.

Georgia Probation Officer Fired Because of His Dreadlocks

Date: 07/16/12 4pm duration 1:38 Diana Davis

It took Richard Williams nine years to grow out his hair. His dreadlocks, he says, are an integral part of who he is. Williams: "For spiritual reasons, I believe that my hair – the locks of my hair – is my strength, my inner self. It has become a part of who I am. The dreadlocks are what he says got him fired as a probation officer for the state Department of Corrections. Williams: "She told me it was because of my hair." Now he's filed a discrimination complaint with the Equal Opportunity Commission. Williams: "I think that they were just completely wrong and they should give my job back and any money and lost wages." Williams says his supervisors at the state's Decatur office first asked him to cut his hair in 2010. He refused. A year later he says for the first time the Department of Corrections issued a written policy about hair. When he continued to refuse to cut his dreadlocks he was fired. The termination letter says he was insubordinate for refusing to follow the dress code, and because he failed to cut his dreadlocks. It spells out the policy against men wearing dreadlocks or braids and long hair. Williams says since women officers are allowed to wear long hair and dreadlocks, he should be too. I spend 24 hours a day being Richard Williams and I spent 8 hours a day being a probation officer. I don't think its my job or what I do for a paycheck should dictate how I am as a person and how I see myself. Williams says he tried to compromise by pinning up his hair to about his shoulders. It wasn't enough. Now he's ready for a fight. I reached out to the Department of Corrections for a comment but no one got back to me.

Chick-Fil-A's Avowed Position on Donations to Traditional Marriage Groups Bring Firestorm of Controversy

Date: 07/19/12 17:08:04 duration :32 Monica Pearson

The president of Atlanta-based Chick-Fil-A says the company opposes gay marriage. President Dan Cathy says his company follows the biblical view – that marriage is between a man and a woman. Some gay marriage supporters say the restaurant has staked out a decidedly stuck-in-the-past mentality.' The restaurant also does not open on Sunday. Within the past two hours, "Chick-Fil-A" sent us this comment: "The Chick-Fil-A culture and service tradition in our restaurants is to treat every person with honor, dignity, and respect – regardless of belief, creed, sexual orientation."

Date: 07/26/12 17:05:49 duration :38 John Bachman

This afternoon, marketing experts are predicting Chick-Fil-A could lose about 2% in profits over a gay marriage controversy. Politicians on both sides are weighing in over Chick Fil A president Dan Cathy's comments against gay marriage on a Christian Radio station. We now have the audio from that radio interview: Cathy: "I think we are inviting God's judgment on our nation when we shake our fist at Him and say 'we know better than you as to what constitutes marriage.'" The Reverend Billy Graham says he plans to eat at Chick-Fil-A next week to show support. Meanwhile, gay and lesbian groups want same sex couples to kiss outside a new restaurant opening in California next week.

Date: 08/01/12 19:31:18 duration :42 Justin Farmer

Thousands of customers flooded into local Chick-Fil-A restaurants today – to support the restaurant in the middle of a gay marriage battle. Our crews traveled to several of the restaurants across metro Atlanta. We visited a packed drive-through and busy dining room at the original Chick-Fil-A Dwarf House in Hapeville. Supporters of the restaurant chain are calling today "Chick Fil A Appreciation Day" and some sent us pictures. Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee by the company president. Celeste Star: "We get to come three times. We usually come once, but we're going to make three of them today. We're going to support them." Gay rights groups are planning their own demonstration this Friday.

Date: 09/24/12 17:44:27 duration :31 Linda Stouffer

New developments today in a gay marriage controversy involving Atlanta-based Chick-Fil-A. Officials say the company has not stopped donations to groups that oppose gay marriage in exchange for clearance to build a restaurant in Chicago. Last week a Chicago Alderman said he'd negotiated the change. Chick-Fil-A issued this statement today saying, in part: "Chick-Fil-A's giving heritage is focused on programs that educate youth, strengthen families and enrich marriages, and support communities. We will continue to focus our giving in those areas."

Woman Says She Was Denied Bank Account Due to Her Cuban Heritage

Date: 07/15/12 22:40:21 duration 1:20 Amy Napier Viteri

Carmen Bermudez: "I was in disbelief." Bermudez says she still can't believe how a manager at a Metrobank branch in Kennesaw closed her business account. She says she went into the branch on June 28th to turn in some paperwork and was told a manger wanted to speak with her. "I was handed that check, and I was told we do not do business with Cubans here." Bermudez opened the account late last year and leased this office space in Marietta with the plan to open a business. At one poing she looked into getting a federal license to open a shop catering to Cubans. "They could send packages to their relatives, telegrams, money if they needed to" She never went through with the idea, because of the lengthy application process. But she suspects that's why MetroBank closed her account. Bermudez: "I could have explained to her and showed her every piece of paperwork to her satisfaction but she had made up her mind that we don't do business with Cubans here." A MetroBank executive sent us a statement about the incident. "We are aware of some concerns recently raised. The same laws and various other regulations previously cited, preclude any discussion of a customer matter except with the customer herself." Bermudez, a US citizen of 26 years, says on one responded to her letters to MetroBank alleging discriminatory treatment. Bermudez: "I escaped Cuba, escaped so that I would not have to put up with treatment such as that."

Date: 07/20/12 17:26:53 duration :27 Justin Farmer

New developments on a controversy involving an Atlanta bank. Carmen Bermudez claimed a manager at MetroBank branch in Kennesaw closed her account simply because she's Cuban. Bermudez opened the account late last year with plans to use it to run a Marietta business. Yesterday, Bermudez received a letter from MetroBank. In it the president and CEO Ken Barber said the bank is "not the best fit for some customers" but said "racism does not exist within the MetroBank organization."

KKK Denied Request to “Adopt a Highway”

Date: 09/14/12 18:06:42

duration :30

Jovita Moore

New developments in a Klan controversy. One Georgia state lawmaker is calling the Ku Klux Klan a terrorist organization. The American Civil Liberties Union has sued the state on behalf of the Klan. Georgia turned down the group's request to “adopt a highway” in June in Union County. State Representative Tyrone Brooks said in a statement, “The KKK is the Aryan American Al Qaeda.” Brooks goes on to say this program is for “civic minded organizations” that build up the community, not hate-filled terror groups seeking its destruction.